



THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of all of originally filed Claims 1 - 45 is provided below. A status identifier is provided for each claim in a parenthetical expression following each claim number.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - receiving a request to send an email;
 - determining whether the email to be sent includes one or more attachments;
 - determining whether a recipient of the email, in a peer-to-peer communication system, has distributed storage separate from an incoming email server of the recipient for storing email attachments, if the email to be sent includes one or more attachments;
 - determining a network address of the recipient's distributed storage for storing email attachments, if the recipient has such distributed storage;
 - determining whether the recipient's distributed storage is available to receive the one or more attachments upon determining the network address; and
 - servicing said request to send said email based at least in part on the results of said determinations.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining of whether the recipient of the email has distributed storage separate from an incoming email server of the recipient for storing email attachments comprises querying a recipient email distributed storage location server.